

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please see Appendix A for a marked-up version of the paragraphs below reflecting the condition of the paragraphs prior to entry of this amendment and the changes incorporated in the amended paragraphs below.

Please replace paragraph number 19 on page 5 with the following:

In this and certain other embodiments, the uncollapsed state includes the arms 12 and legs 14 in a fully extended position, and the collapsed state includes the arm 12 and legs 14 in a retracted position. However, the uncollapsed state can include the arms 12 and legs 14 in more than one extended position as desired. For example, the uncollapsed state can also include the arms 12 and legs 14 extended to a position between the retracted position and the fully extended position. In a fully extended position, the arms 12 typically extend from the moving arm ring 26 in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis 28 of the body 16, and the legs 14 typically extend from the moving leg ring 32 in a direction approximately 35° from the longitudinal axis 28. However, in other embodiments, the legs 14 can extend at an angle more or less than 35°. By varying the legs' angle of extension, the stability of the collapsible support in the upright position can be varied to accommodate items that require more or less force to support. In still other embodiments, the arms 12 can extend at an angle more or less than 90° and the legs 14 can extend at an angle approximately 35°. In yet other embodiments, the arms 12 can extend at an angle more or less than 90° and the legs 14 can extend at an angle more or less than approximately 35°. In a retracted position, the arms 12 and legs 14 typically extend from their respective moving rings 26 and 32 in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis 28 and adjacent the body 16, but can extend in a direction that is not substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis 28. If more than one extended position forms the uncollapsed state, the arms 12 and legs

14 can respectively extend at angles 45° and 10°, 60° and 20° or any other desired angles from the longitudinal axis 28.

Please replace paragraph number 33 on page 12 with the following:

In this and certain other embodiments, the moving arm ring 26 includes a first hole 94 into which the attachment fastener 54 is inserted, a second hole 96 that threadingly receives the attachment fastener 54, and two arm attachment portions 98 to which respective arms 12 are attached. Inserted through the first hole 94 in the moving arm ring 26 and two diametrically opposed holes 100 in the inner tube 42, the attachment fastener 54 threadingly engages the second hole 96 in the moving arm ring 26 and thereby attaches the moving arm ring 26 to the inner tube 42. The attachment fastener 54 is also inserted through the two outer-tube slots 56 in the outer tube 43 that are sized to permit the attachment fastener 54 to move along the longitudinal axis 28 of FIGS. 1 – 3 — into and out of the cross-sectional plane. After passing through the inner and outer tubes 42 and 43, the attachment fastener 54 is turned to force the two halves 101a and 101b of the moving arm ring 26 together. In other embodiments, other conventional fastening techniques such as press fitting a pin into the inner tube 42 and moving arm ring 26, riveting, or other desired techniques can be used to attach the moving arm ring 26 to the inner tube 42. To allow the moving arm ring 26 to move relative to the outer tube 43 as the inner tube 42 moves along the longitudinal axis 28, the two halves 101a and 101b contact each other and prevent the halves 101a and 101b from clamping down on the outer tube 43. When the inner tube 42 moves relative to the outer tube 43, the attachment fastener 54 transmits this movement to the moving arm ring 26 that also moves relative to the outer tube 43. Consequently, the moving arm ring 26 moves relative to the fixed arm ring 24 in FIGS. 1 – 3 and depending on the direction of the movement either extends or retracts the arms 12.